

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

**The following claim listing replaces all previous claim listings:**

1. (currently amended) A lens molding die which comprises:

a base member made of a hard material and having one surface of a predetermined shape;

a resin-molded surface layer formed on said one surface of the base member and having a surface shape corresponding to a predetermined shape of one surface of a lens to be produced; and

a cylindrical holder configured to surround and fixedly hold said base member, wherein:

said surface shape of said resin-molded surface layer to said predetermined shape of said base member;

said resin-molded surface layer is inactive with a material to be molded by said lens molding die;

a curvature of said surface shape of said resin-molded surface layer is different from a curvature of said predetermined shape of said base member; and

a thickness of said resin-molded surface layer is less than a thickness of said base member.

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2. (original) The lens molding die according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined shape of said one surface of the base member is spherical while the surface shape of the resin-molded surface layer is aspheric.

3. (canceled)

4. (previously presented) The lens molding die according to claim 1, wherein said surface layer is made of a thermosetting resin material.

5. (previously presented) The lens molding die according to claim 1, wherein said surface layer is made of a ultraviolet-curable resin material.

6-20. (canceled)

21.(currently amended) A lens molding die comprising:

a base member having a surface configuration;

a resin-molded surface layer on said surface of said base member and having a surface layer surface configuration corresponding to a shape of a surface of a lens to be produced;  
and

a cylindrical holder configured to surround and fixedly hold said base member,  
wherein:

said surface layer surface configuration is uninterrupted and conforms to said base member surface configuration;

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a curvature of said surface layer surface configuration does not correspond to a curvature of said base member surface configuration; and

a thickness of said resin-molded surface layer is less than a thickness of said base member.

22. (canceled).

23. (currently amended) A lens molding die comprising:

a base member having a spherical surface;

a resin-molded surface layer on said spherical surface and having an aspherical surface configuration corresponding to a shape of a surface of a lens to be produced; and

a cylindrical holder configured to surround and securely hold said base member, wherein:

said aspherical surface of said resin-molded surface layer is uninterrupted and conforms to said spherical surface of said base member;

a thickness of said resin-molded surface layer is configured to vary only in accordance with the aspheric component of said resin-molded surface layer; and

a thickness of said resin-molded surface layer is less than a thickness of said base member.

24-26. (canceled)

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27. (previously presented) The lens molding die according to claim 2, wherein a thickness of said resin-molded surface layer is configured to vary only in accordance with the aspheric component of said resin-molded surface layer.

28. (previously presented) The lens molding die according to claim 21, wherein:

said surface layer surface configuration of said resin-molded surface layer is aspheric;

said base member surface configuration is spherical; and

a thickness of said resin-molded surface layer is configured to vary only in accordance with the aspheric component of the resin-molded surface layer.

29. (canceled)

30. (previously presented) The lens molding die according to claim 1, wherein a thickness of said resin-molded surface layer ranges from 0.2 mm to 0.5 mm.

31. (previously presented) The lens molding die according to claim 21, wherein a thickness of said resin-molded surface layer ranges from 0.2 mm to 0.5 mm.

32. (previously presented) The lens molding die according to claim 23, wherein a thickness of said resin-molded surface layer ranges from 0.2 mm to 0.5 mm.

33. (previously presented) The lens molding die according to claim 1, further comprising a ring-shaped positioning member configured to coaxially engage said cylindrical holder.

34. (previously presented) The lens molding die according to claim 21, further comprising a ring-shaped positioning member configured to coaxially engage said cylindrical holder.

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35. (previously presented) The lens molding die according to claim 23, further comprising a ring-shaped positioning member configured to coaxially engage said cylindrical holder.

DISCUSSION SUMMARY

Applicant extends appreciation to the interview for the telephonic discussion of January 18, 2005, with Applicant's representative, Attorney William Boshnick. During the discussion, Attorney Boshnick and Examiner Heckenberg discussed proposed amendments to independent claims 1, 21 and 23, for example, possibly amending these independent claims to recite that the cylindrical holder surrounds and fixedly (or securely) holds the base member. The Examiner indicated that while such proposed amendments appeared to overcome the references of record, a new search may need to be conducted before agreeing to allow the application. Applicant notes that the amendments to independent claims 1, 21 and 23 each recite the above-noted cylindrical holder that surrounds and fixedly (or securely, with respect to claim 23) holds the base member.